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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 have been rejected.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8-12, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Rothermal et al. (US 6,678,827). The Examiner also rejected claims 6-7, 13-14, 16-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Rothermal et al. (US 6,678,827) and further in view of Bunton, et al. (US 6,690,757). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in view of the remarks that follow.

It appears to Applicants' that the Examiner misunderstood the originally filed claims and thus mistakenly misapplied the '827 patent as a reference to base his anticipatory and obviousness type rejections.

Applicants' claimed invention generally relates to the transportation of any type of data between two computing devices (e.g. server/client, server/server and client/client). In order to achieve that, the functionalities of several traditional layers of the OSI ("Open System Interconnectivity"), for example layers 4 to 7, may be implemented in a single "multi-channel communication hardware" – "MCC HW" (residing on one or both of the computing devices engaged in data transaction),

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which may also replace standard network communication cards. According to some embodiments of the present invention, two computing devices (e.g. servers and/or clients) may be provided with such MCC HW and may relatively securely (e.g. filtered) exchange data at relatively very high data rates, without a third party device (e.g. external firewall) being involved in the process.

Each of the independent claims recites the limitations relating to: (1) filtering application data, and (2) providing the filtered application directly to communication hardware on a computing device engaged in the communication. As is quite explicitly explained in the specification, these two limitations, which are found in each of the independent claims, facilitate enhanced communication between two or more computing devices.

In contradistinction to what is claimed, the sole goal of US 6,678,827 is to remotely manage one or more 'standalone', distributed, security entities (i.e., NSDs - "Network Security Devices"), which are located at different geographical locations. More specifically, each NSD functions as a security barrier between an internal client and an external client. In this respect, each NSD may be regarded as advanced type of a Firewall.

Put otherwise, US 6,678,827 discloses 'standalone' hardware elements that are intended to protect standard servers, whereas the Applicant's invention discloses a novel server that operates in entirely new way comparing to standard servers. Applicant refers now to the rejected claims:

As per independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 18:

Lines 18-19 (COL. 11, Rothermel) describe a user interface used for allowing a user to configure security policies ("*... a user interface for configuring a security policy template for a specific NSD,...*"), whereas the interface mentioned in claim 1 is a "communication interface". Obviously, the two types of interfaces are dissimilar; the first being a graphical user interface ("GUI") and the second handling network communication aspects. For this reason, Applicant asserts that these lines (i.e., lines

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18-19) bear no barrier to claim 1 and, disclosing substantially the same elements, also to claims 8, 15 and 18.

Line 67 (COL. 11, Rothermel) only mentions "network interface" as an example for a type of network security information, other examples being direction, total length, protocol, header length and so on. Because there are many types of network interfaces, which are designed for different purposes, Applicant asserts that the mere mentioning of the wording "*network interface*" does not constitute a barrier to claim 1 and, disclosing substantially the same elements, also to claims 8, 15 and 18.

Though lines 45-46 (COL. 4, Rothermel) mention "security policies", Applicant asserts that the mere mentioning thereof does not constitute a barrier to claim 1, because secure policies can be implemented in different ways, for example in a way described in Rothermel. In any case, as argued hereinbefore, handling security aspects is only one of the communication capabilities supported by Applicant's novel server. Therefore, the wording "policy" in claim 1 does not necessarily refer to "security policy", but, rather, it is meant to cover several aspects that are, or may be, involved in any type of data communication, including data related to security aspects.

Put otherwise, the wording "policy" in claim 1 refers to any application data that is filtered according to some policy, which policy does not necessarily relate to security. For example, the policy may relate to memory management, which is one of the capabilities of the novel server. For example, the latter policy may impose rules as to how data entities should be stored, queued, transmitted, and otherwise handled.

Lines 56-64 (COL. 11, Rothermel) describe a GUI for allowing a user to generate network security information. As explained in connection with lines 18-19 (COL. 11, Rothermel), Applicant asserts that for similar reasons these lines (i.e., lines 56-64) bear no barrier to claim 1 and, disclosing substantially the same elements, also to claims 8, 15 and 18.

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Lines 14-67 (COL. 12, Rothermel) describe another type of GUI. Applicant believes that Examiner thinks of an NSD as the communication hardware that is mentioned in claim 1. If this impression is correct, Applicant asserts that each NSD is a standalone element that is remotely supervised and communicates with a server to protect it from an external device. As may be appreciated by those skilled in the art, the NSD does not function as a communication hardware but, rather, it functions as a security hardware and, as such, it only interferes with normal activities of (e.g., data handled by) the protected server.

In contradistinction, claims 1, 8, 15 and 18 disclose the use and structure of networked computing device that includes a novel combination of filtering and communication features through which filtered application data may be communicated. In particular, Applicant asserts that the security system of Rothermel and the Applicant's novel server belong to disparate fields. In fact, Rothermel's system may be utilized to protect Applicant's novel server when it comes to security management. Therefore, Applicant asserts that these lines (i.e., 14-67, Rothermel) bear no barrier to claim 1 and, disclosing substantially the same elements, also to claims 8, 15 and 18.

Based on the above explanation, Applicants believe they have sufficiently clarified the distinction between Independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 18. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 8, 15 and 18.

As per dependent claims 6-7, 9-14, 16-17 and 19-20:

By virtue of their dependence on claims consider allowable, dependent claims 2 through 7, 9 through 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are considered also allowable.

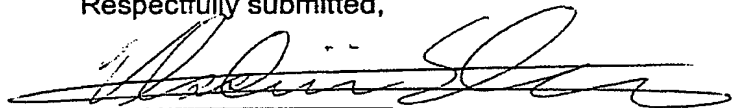
In view of the foregoing remarks, all pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of these Amendments, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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